

THE SHARECROPPERS' VOICE

VOL 1

MAY 1935

NO 2

The Sharecroppers' Voice is the official organ of the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union. It is edited by Union men for the purpose of supplying the members and friends of the Union with reliable information on all matters of concern to the Union. The voice will be published from time to time and will tell what every Union man and woman ought to know.

This is your paper. Give us letters, articles, songs, etc. We promise to print as much as our space will permit.

The price of The Voice is one dollar per year, or two cents per copy. If you are not a subscriber some friend of yours has probably asked that you be given this copy of The Voice as an invitation to subscribe. We want to make The Voice self supporting - So - send your dollar, then, for a whole year. The Voice will keep you informed of the doings of the S. T. F. U.

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The Southern Tenant Farmers' Union wishes to extend heartiest greetings and good wishes to its friends and fellow-workers of the Alabama Sharecroppers' Union. While the two organizations have no official connections they are at one in their united struggle against their common oppressors - the planters and the plantation interests of the South. Both organizations are struggling hourly against the oppression and terror being practiced against their members by the plantation bosses. Both organizations represent the toiling white and black farm workers of the South. Both are determined in their opposition to the plantation system and all that it represents in American life. Both are determined that nothing shall divide them in their common effort to throw off the yoke of slavery and tyranny that hangs like a mill stone about the neck of Southern farm workers.

Members of the Alabama Sharecroppers' Union the members of the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union salute you!

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The Southern Tenant Farmers' Union is now in possession of the hammer and slide of the machine gun which was used by the night riders to shoot up the home of E. B. McKinney near Marked Tree, Arkansas. It will be recalled that McKinney's home was riddled with bullets on the night of April 2nd. Two men were shot while asleep in the house.

We are advised that "The Better America Committee" of Poinsett County, or others interested, may reclaim the above described property by asking for it and presenting due proof of ownership.

Holly Grove, Ark., May 5th. (Special to Sharecroppers Voice)-- The Colored Baptist Church of Holly Grove, Arkansas was burned to the ground by a planter sympathizer on April 21st. The Negro Church was being used as a meeting place for the Holly Grove unit of the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union and in order to prevent the Union from having further meetings in the Church the planters near Parkin had it burned. A well known planter furnished a hiding place for the man who set fire to the Church and gave him comfort and protection.

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BIG BUSINESS SHOWS ITS TEETH

On May 2nd the daily press carried the news that a delegation of big business men (the United States Chamber of Commerce) met in Washington and demanded that Congress postpone the "Social Security Program" for at least a year. They demanded that business be allowed to regulate itself, or, in other words, that business be allowed to sweat all the profit out of us that it is able to without any restrictions whatever.

They demanded that the 30 hour week must not be made into law and that No National Labor Board shall be established.

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THOMAS presents plea of SHARECROPPERS

May 2nd - Norman Thomas, former Socialist candidate for the Presidency, and well known friend of the Sharecropper, today made a plea to President Roosevelt in the interest of the Southern Sharecroppers and Tenants, especially those of Northeast Arkansas who have been abused so greatly because of their activity in building the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union.

When asked what he thought of the interview with the President he said "I think the President is interested."

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COTTON PICKING MACHINE SHOWN AT CARNIVAL

How many of you sharecroppers saw the cotton picking machine in Memphis this week? It looks like maybe we will all be given a good long rest or perhaps a permanent layoff.

We cannot compete with machinery. Why not make up our minds that the laboring class shall own all the machinery of production and let it work for us and not against us?

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"SLAVES MORE SECURE THAN SHARECROPPERS" Says New Orleans Professor

NEW ORLEANS (FP) - Southern Tenant Farmers have lost even the social security which Negro plantation hands had during slavery, Herman C. Nixon, Professor of political Science at Tulane University, declared during a recent address in New Orleans. "The Sharecroppers of today in Arkansas have not been brought suddenly to their present condition but their sufferings are the accumulation of evils which have been brewing since the Civil War." The

Southern Tenant Farmers' Union has contended all along that the plantation workers of today are really worse off than the slaves of yesterday. Many students of history are supporting this contention of the Union. The slaves were well fed, clothed and housed. When they got sick they had a doctor to care for them. Sometimes they had a good master, more often they didn't however. Although slaves, they were looked upon as things of value. The majority of plantation workers today are of less value to the plantation owners than a good mule. Much better care is given farm animals than sharecroppers on most plantations. The sharecroppers live in a dilapidated house, he eats the most miserable food, corn bread, molasses, beans and sour belly. He wears poor clothes and in winter freezes, his children go without food and clothes; he works "from can't to can't." If he gets sick he doesn't have a doctor's care because if he dies the planter can soon get another able bodied man to take his place.

There are plenty of slaves today who will work for the sake of seeing tomorrow's sun and just existing. King Cotton had his slaves before Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation and he still has them. We are glad that a Southern University professor had the courage and guts to tell the truth about the sharecropper and the modern slaves of King Cotton. The Southern Tenant Farmers' Union hates slavery of any sort; it wants freedom and plenty for all people. The Voice goes out to the slave of today to throw off his yoke and proclaim his freedom once more.

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Thousands of starving men, women and children are marching on the Capital of Illinois demanding relief, while Governor Herner and the other mis-representatives of the people haggle over what method they can use to put more tax on the poor people of the state to get money to meet Hopkins' demand that the state bear a part of the relief burden.

The solution will probably be a sales tax which will increase the price of everything the poor people have to buy and use, thereby adding to their burden. It is over thus!